

Appl. No. : 10/628,879
Filed : July 28, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 2-21 are currently pending. The present amendments place the pending claims in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues.

The Office Action of August 1, 2006 stated that Claim 2, and claims that depended from Claim 2 (Claims 3-7), would be allowable if rewritten to include the elements of the independent claim. Accordingly, Claim 2 has been amended by including the elements of prior Claim 1. In addition, Claims 8-21 have also been amended to depend from Claim 2 and should therefore be allowable as well. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, in the original text of the currently amended claims, Claim 1, Example 1, paragraphs 0053-0066, FIGs. 1-4 and the discussion of the figures. Applicants note that the dependent claims recite additional elements which further distinguish them over the cited art. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the cited art and the state of the art at the time of filing of the application, Applicants do appreciate the Examiner's comments regarding alternative ways of demonstrating the state of the art.

In the interest of accelerating the prosecution of the current case, Claim 1 has been cancelled. This is not a surrender of subject matter and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claim and subject matter at a later point.

Regarding the comment on the top of page 8 of the Office Action, Applicants note that there is no pending rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The previous rejection was withdrawn in light of the Applicants' comments (Response of May 1, 2006). As a result, Claim 2 is patentable as currently presented, as are the claims that depend therefrom (Claims 3-21).

Applicants submit that the present claim amendments place the application in condition for allowance. If, however, some issue remains, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone

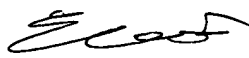
Appl. No. : 10/628,879
Filed : July 28, 2003

the undersigned in order to resolve such issue promptly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 11/1/06

By: 

Eli A. Loots
Registration No. 54,715
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

2840319
081506